



"Your Connection"

A Publication about City Government

Communications Team Monthly Report

MANAGER'S OFFICE

- Citizen's Survey will mail out the week of April 17. Working on the component for "every citizen" to weigh in on using the Internet.
√ Press conference on citizen's survey is April 17 at 2:00 pm in the Council boardroom.
- Golf Marketing and Summer of Discovery Marketing are in full swing.
- Next edition of the City Link newsletter is due out this month.
- Council members Carl Brewer and Bob Martz secured Wichita becoming the host site for the National League of City's Committee Meetings May 18-20. CMO staff are working with NLC to coordinate the event.

FINANCE

The Budget Office has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2006 Adopted Budget. This marks the 18th consecutive year that the Finance Department has received this award. To be recognized, the budget document must satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for an effective budget presentation. In addition, the budget was judged to have been "proficient" in the areas of: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and as a communications devise. According to the GFOA, the award represents "the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting."

COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAMS

- The Manager's Office, through the Arts and Cultural Services Division, is in the process of creating an ordinance to govern Community Events (formerly known as "Special Events").
- The purpose is to protect the rights of people, to engage in express activities and to ensure the health and safety of event patrons, residents, workers and visitors.
- The Community Event Permit is being presented as "One Stop Shopping". A one-day event package will be provided at a fee of \$75 and include a specified number of business licenses or permits:
 - √ Banner/Sign Permits
 - √ Tent/Canopy Permits
 - √ Transient Merchant Licenses (10)
 - √ Cabaret License (1)
 - √ Outdoor Dance License (1)
 - √ Walk/Run/Marathon Permit (1)
- The Community Event Coordinator will complete the application process and determine what licenses and permits are needed. Treasury License Staff will then process the completed and approved licenses. Additional licenses will be available for additional fees. Package valued at \$700.
- A Stakeholders meeting was March 22, 2006, at City Arts to inform persons involved in Community Events and to solicit concerns and responses. A presentation to the DABs is planned for April and May, and the committee plans to present the proposed ordinance to the City Council in May.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

- **National Playground Safety Week, April 24-28, 2006.** The Housing Authority Insurance Group is sponsoring a national Playground Poster & Essay Contest. The theme is "Safe and Sound at the Playground". Section 8 and Public Housing families are encouraged to participate. The City of Wichita Park and Recreation Department is also including participants in after-school activities. There are three age categories: 6-8, 9-11, and 12-14 years. There will be one poster winner and one essay winner for each category. Children may enter either contest or both. Essays/posters should describe what playground safety means to them.
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LIBRARY

- Author/illustrator and Emmy winner Mo Willems ("Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late," "Knuffle Bunny") visited the Central Library on Sunday, April 9, to read, draw and sign books. He attracted 275 children and parents to the Library. Willems' visit was made possible through a partnership with Watermark Books and Café.



- On Friday, April 7 Jamie Prothro, Evergreen Branch Manager, was honored by the Kansas Library Association (KLA), with the Best New Professional Presidential Award. She has significantly impacted the quality of library service in the state of Kansas in the

five years since receiving a professional degree.

- The Friends of Kansas Libraries awarded the Friends of the Wichita Public Library with their Outstanding Friends Group Award for service populations of over 10,000. Treasurer Larry Romine accepted on behalf of the Friends. He said, "we owe it all to our volunteers."
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PUBLIC WORKS

- City Hall's Atrium Renovation Project, Phase 1, is complete. Starting Monday, April 17, employees will enter through the atrium. Employees will not have to go through the metal detectors if they have their City ID.
 - Public Works, Engineering and MAPD staff met in March and April with business representatives, property owners, and DAB and neighborhood representatives in the vicinity of 21st and Broadway, to discuss options for elevating 21st between Broadway and I-135, over the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe and Union Pacific railroad tracks.
 - √ This would curve the elevated 21st street overpass to the north, with the existing 21st street serving as the access road.
 - √ Two meetings are scheduled in May and June to address any stakeholders' questions and refine the concept.
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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- Environmental Services' Food Protection inspectors attended a Food and Drug Administration satellite downlink class on food defense. The class was a cooperative effort with the University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita, which provided the satellite downlink and classroom accommodations.
- The Wichita Area Treatment Education and Remediation Center has received a donation from the Lower Arkansas River Basin

Advisory Committee to complete the "Condition of the River" exhibit. The exhibit has also received support from the U.S. Geological Survey, and is maintained by Environmental Services WATER Center staff.

- The Forrest C. Lattner Foundation has awarded the Wichita Area Treatment Education and Remediation Center \$5000 towards completion of the "Captive Flow" exhibit. In addition to treatment of contaminated groundwater from the Gilbert-Mosley area, the WATER center provides educational opportunities for area residents and visitors.
- With the recent completion of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point training by three Food Protection inspectors, the entire Food Protection staff is now HACCP certified by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. HACCP is a process-based inspection protocol used for education and food borne illness investigations.
- Earth Day will be held on April 22nd at the Sedgwick County Zoo. Environmental Services Department will run an ad on that day to educate citizens on Environmental Health and how to keep Wichita beautiful. Please join us at the Zoo to learn about conservation, recycling, clean water and the health of our planet!
- Four Environmental Services staff will serve as volunteer judges in the regional Science Olympiad for middle and high school students on April 1.

TRANSIT

- During River Festival (May 12-20), the City of Wichita trolleys will again provide shuttle service for large events, and to the food court. The Q-Line trolleys will begin on May 22. The Q-Line is a cooperative effort with the City of Wichita and the Wichita Downtown Development Corp. Historic trolley tours will begin on May 25.
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PARK & RECREATION

- The **Park and Recreation Department's Recreation Division** has begun registration for the City's ***Summer of Discovery (SOD)*** program. This ten-week recreation program is open to children ages 6-13 and is licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The program is filled with exciting, fun and educational activities that will keep kids busy all summer. The program runs May 31st through August 4th.
- The **Park and Recreation Department's Athletic Division** is now taking registration for summer youth programs including:
 - ✓ ***Boys Baseball*** (ages 7-14); ***Girls Softball*** (ages 7-18); and ***Coed T-Ball*** (ages 5 & 6).

League play will consist of ten games and runs June 5 through July 20. The cost is \$50 per child. Call 268-4361 or go to <http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Park/YouthSportsLeagues>.

✓ Registration is also being taken for ***Soccer Camps*** for all ages and skill levels to be held July 31st through August 4. Call 268-4361 or go to www.challengersports.com.

WATER & SEWER

- The Water & Sewer sewage treatment division is in the design phase of the Mid-Continent Treatment Plant with design consultant Camp Dresser & McKee. The City is reviewing membrane bio reactor (MBR) technology for this application because of its smaller per unit capacity than conventional treatment processes. This will allow the entire treatment process to be covered and prevent having open water surfaces, which is a major concern for structures near the airport. When constructed, this will be the first MBR plant in the state.

- The City Council approved a budget option for 2006 that allows the W&S Department to recover the cost of the Federally mandated backflow prevention program from customers who are required to have backflow preventers (i.e. lawn irrigation systems, fire sprinkler systems, and industrial applications). Letters went out to these customers in the last two weeks explaining the charge (\$0.75/month billed at \$4.50 semi-annually per device.)
- Vaughn Weaver was awarded the Kansas Wildlife Federation Stream Monitor of the Year for 2005 at the conservation achievement program banquet in Manhattan. The federation annually recognizes Kansas' top conservationists. His work is well recognized by regulatory agencies, including Kansas Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Department of Health & Environment, and the EPA.
- On February 7, 2006, City Council approved the technically-based local pollutant limits for industrial users. Per EPA requirements, the City provided a 30-day public comment

period. Based on comments received, staff worked closely with the industrial community to assure that the pollutant limits allocated were reasonably attainable by industry, yet protective of the environment.

AIRPORT

- Airport & Marketing staff are working with Armstrong Shank, the agency of record for the Airport. Part of the program is to make the Airport more customer-friendly. A new ambassador-type group called the "Courtesy Crew" is a prime component of the advertising campaign. This group will be there during peak airport hours and will assist travelers in need. We expect that they will be working at the airport by the end of the summer. Syndeo is coordinating the hiring process of these part-time positions.
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